

60 Minutes of Prayer for our Nation

What you need: A national newspaper, a map or drawing of your nation. Some paper or cards to write on, pens/pencils.

The time guides are a guide only – you do not have to take the whole hour, but try not to go over an hour!

WHAT IS YOUR NATION LIKE?: (up to) 15 MINUTES

In every country there are things to thank God for and things to ask for His help with. Look through a recent newspaper and find words or short phrases that describe good and bad things about your nation. Write them on the “My Nation” sheet and look at the image they create. Thank God for the good things you read. Ask for His help with the bad.

Suggested line of prayer

Father God, I thank you for my nation. I want to thank you especially for ...
I bring to you the bad things of my nation, especially ...

PRAYING THROUGH THE NEWSPAPER: 10 MINUTES

Now look through the articles in the newspaper you’ve been using. Choose two things happening in or affecting your nation today. Talk about them together – do you all agree with each other? Write down a few sentences or phrases that you can use to help you when you pray.

Ask God to shine His wisdom on these situations, and for God’s truth and wisdom to illuminate our world.

Ask Jesus to move and for His Kingdom to come and His will to be done.

PRAYING FOR YOUR NATION: 15 MINUTES

Think about the role that government plays in our lives today. Lay the map of your nation on the floor and point out the place where your government meets. Pray that Jesus’ Kingdom would be the foundation of law and leadership in your nation.

The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living simply, in humble contemplation. This is the way our Saviour God wants us to live. 1 Timothy 2:1-3 (MSG)

Look around you at the different parts of your country. Ask the Holy Spirit to move in your nation and speak out His fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Ask God to give national leaders wisdom.

PRAY FOR A FRIEND AND FOR AN ENEMY: 10 MINUTES

Every nation has allies and enemies. Jesus teaches us to love our neighbour (Matthew 22:38) and to love our enemies (Matthew 5:44). This can be difficult when war or oppression is at the root of dislike. Choose a nation that is closely allied to your own, and then choose a nation that is historically or currently an adversary. Write their names in your prayer room and pray for God's kingdom and blessing to come in both. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pray into their strengths and weaknesses.

THE LORD'S PRAYER: 10 MINUTES

Before you leave pray The Lord's Prayer over your nation. Pause after each phrase, thinking how it relates to our nation and its needs. You might want to share your thoughts as you work through the prayer. You may wish after that to say it once more without the pauses. Finish by praising God. You may want to praise God for something He has done in your life, in the Church, in your neighbourhood, in the nation.

60 Minutes Praying for our nation

would like to invite you

Date/Time:

Place:

Refreshments will be provided. Please let us know if you can come.

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To cut out and hand to people to keep with them:

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My Nation

Good

Not good/Bad